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REMARKS

In the final Office Action claims 1-52 were pending and claims 41-50 and 52 stand allowed, claims 1-6, 19-26, 39, 40 and 51 stand rejected, and claims 7-18 and 27-38 stand objected to.

The present Amendment After Final is intended to place the application in condition for allowance, avoid raising additional issues and not require any additional searching or application of prior art. Applicants respectfully request entry and favorable consideration of the remarks and amendments tendered herewith.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 19-26, 39, 40 and 51 are rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 4,467,810 to Vollmann ("Vollmann"). Applicants herewith cancel independent claim 1 and incorporate the subject matter of claim 1 into objected-to claim 7. Claims 2-6 were then amended to depend directly from claim 7 and thus they too should be allowable over the prior art. Claims 8-18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 7 and claims 19 and 20 are herewith amended to also depend from claim 7.

Applicants herewith cancel rejected independent claim 21 and incorporate the limitations of claim 21 into objected-to claim 27: accordingly, claims 22, 25, 26, 34, 39 and 40 were amended to also depend from claim 27 and thus they should be deemed allowable over the art. In addition, claim 51 is herewith canceled thus rendering the rejection of claim 51 moot.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action Applicants: Hess et al. Serial No. 10/034,060

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to that effect is courteously solicited so that the claimed invention may proceed to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues related to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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